



URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

( J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. )

FOR 1940.



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1.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health   #

Norman S. R. Lorraine, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.  
Also Medical Officer of Health for Canvey Island  
and Rayleigh Urban District Councils and Assistant  
County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

Assistant Medical Officers - Essex County Council.

J. H. Crosby, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Esther P. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Jemima B. Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.   /

Health Visitor

Miss P. M. Richardson, General Training, London Hospital;  
Central Midwives' Board Certificate, Clapham;  
Queen's Jubilee Nurse; Health Visitor's Certificate  
(old and new)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

Miss D. Grudgings.

Senior Sanitary Inspector   #

W. E. Colston, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 30.9.40)  
J. E. Gilbert, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A. (From 1.10.40)

Additional Sanitary Inspector   #

J. E. Gilbert, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed Senior Sanitary  
Inspector 1.10.40)

Both the Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors are  
qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Inspectors  
(Outside London) Order, 1935, and, in addition, hold  
other certificates.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors.

R. D. Prichard           (Member H.M. Forces 19.1.40)  
D. C. Draper           (22.1.40 - 5.7.40)  
J. M. B. Hunt           (From 3.7.40)

#   One half of the salary attached to these offices is paid by the  
County Council from Exchequer Contribution Account.

/   Part-time.       Also in general practice.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Public Health Department,  
London Road,  
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District  
Council of Benfleet.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Eleventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1940.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2314 of the 26th March, 1941, this report is intended to be an interim report only.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.  
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

July, 1941.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.

|                                          |     |     |     |          |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres)                          | ... | ... | ... | 6,370    |
| Population:                              |     |     |     |          |
| Registrar-General's estimate mid-1937    |     |     |     | 15,710   |
| " " " " 1938                             |     |     |     | 16,300   |
| " " " " 1939                             |     |     |     | 16,980   |
| " " " " 1940                             |     |     |     | 15,140   |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) |     |     |     |          |
| according to Rate Books                  | ... | ... | ... | 5,780    |
| Rateable Value                           | ... | ... | ... | £107,097 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate          |     |     | ... | £400     |

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

|                           |                            |             |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <u>England and Wales.</u> | Live Births 14.6           | Deaths 14.3 |
|                           | Deaths under 1 year of age | 55.0        |

Benfleet U.D.C.

Live Births (a) B.R. (For calculating Birth Rates)

|              | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | Birth Rate per<br>1,000 estimated<br>resident population |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Total        | 185           | 100       | 85        | .... 12.2 ....                                           |
| Legitimate   | 176           | 97        | 79        |                                                          |
| Illegitimate | 9             | 3         | 6         |                                                          |

(b) I.M. etc. (For calculating Infant and Maternal Mortalities)

|              |     |    |    |
|--------------|-----|----|----|
| Total        | 185 | 99 | 86 |
| Legitimate   | 175 | 96 | 79 |
| Illegitimate | 10  | 3  | 7  |

Stillbirths.

|              |   |   |   |                                                    |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------------------------|
| Total        | 7 | 1 | 6 | Rate per 1,000<br>total (live and<br>still) births |
| Legitimate   | 6 | 1 | 5 | .... 36.4 ....                                     |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |                                                    |

|                |     |     |    |                                                         |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Deaths.</u> | 231 | 138 | 93 | Death Rate per<br>1,000 estimated<br>average population |
|                |     |     |    | .... 15.2 = ....                                        |

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

|                        | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total<br>(live & still) births |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Puerperal sepsis       | -       | 5.4                                           |
| Other puerperal causes | 1       | 5.2                                           |
| Total                  | 1       | 5.2                                           |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

|                                                            |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Total number of infants                                    | ... | ... | 8    |
| All infants per 1,000 live births                          | ... | ... | 43.2 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate<br>live births     | ... | ... | 45.7 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate<br>live births | ... | ... | -    |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                              | ... | ... | 26   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                             | ... | ... | -    |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)                      | ... | ... | -    |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)               | ... | ... | -    |

\* This figure to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, has to be multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor 0.72, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 10.9 as compared with 14.3 for the country as a whole.

## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities (b) Ambulance Facilities (c) Nursing in the Home (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. 5,640 houses in the Area were connected with the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at December 1940.

One sample from a private supply was submitted for chemical and part bacteriological examination. This was reported to be unsatisfactory. The premises were vacated.

One sample was submitted from the Public Supply (Southend Waterworks Company) for chemical and bacteriological examination. This was reported to be satisfactory.

Drainage. During the year 3 premises were connected to the sewer, and extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of 14 existing buildings.

Public Cleansing. The separate collection of materials salvaged by householders has caused some dislocation of the normal refuse collection service during the year under review, but generally a fairly regular fortnightly collection has been maintained. If, however, the putrescible portion of house refuse is placed in the churns situate throughout the district for the reception of kitchen waste, and not in the dustbins, no nuisance or danger to health should arise.

Visits and Inspections. 2404 visits were made during the year and the usual remedial work enforced.

Factories Act, 1937. A total of 15 inspections were made and two defects were found and remedied.

Disinfection. 30 houses, involving 34 rooms, were disinfected.

Petroleum (Regulations) Act, 1928 and 1936. 39 inspections were made and 17 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and one for the storage of carbide of calcium.

In other branches of sanitary administration, the usual routine work was carried out without any essential changes.

## SECTION D - HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses. House-to-house inspections under the Housing (Consolidation) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 and action under the Housing Act 1936 were suspended in September 1939 owing to other calls on the time of the Designated Officers being made, and to the difficulty owners would experience where extensive repairs would make demands on labour and materials. Repairs to properties have, therefore, since the outbreak of hostilities, been confined to works necessary to abate nuisances.

New Houses. No new houses were erected during the year.

## SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At the end of the year 7 farms used for the production of milk were registered and 59 retail purveyors were also registered.

5 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination of which number three were unsatisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. A total of 20 licences were issued under the above Orders.

Phosphotase Test. Two samples of pasteurised milk were subjected to the phosphotase test and one failed to pass. Suitable action was taken.

Meat and Other Foods. Since January, 1940, all food animals have been slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Slaughter-House, Cross Farm, Hadleigh. 204 visits were made during the year and all meat found to be unfit for human consumption was suitably disposed of by the Ministry.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The usual sampling was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drug Authority for the area..

#### SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of infecticus diseases. Particulars of all cases notified during the year will be found in the table on page 6.

Tuberculosis. During 1940, 14 cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, eight males and six females. Two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also notified, one male and one female.

It is regretted that during the year, there were eleven deaths from tuberculosis, all respiratory, six males and five females.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation under the Scheme already in operation proceeded satisfactorily.

#### AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

This Department has assumed the normal responsibilities in respect of the Emergency Medical Services (Casualty Services). Three First Aid Posts have been established, equipped and staffed. At the end of the year, Drs. Eaton, McGladdery and Nicholls were acting as Medical Officers in charge of these Posts and a Nurse in Charge of each Post had been allocated by the Civil Nursing Reserve.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

| NOTIFIABLE<br>DISEASE                          | Cases included in Weekly Returns. |              |              |              |              |              |               |                |                |                |                |                |                   | Total Deaths.                  | Distribu-<br>tion. |                    |              | Sex. |    |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|------|----|
|                                                | At ages                           |              |              |              |              |              |               |                |                |                |                |                |                   |                                | Hadleigh           | South<br>Benfleet. | Thundersley. | M.   | F. |
|                                                | All<br>ages                       | 0<br>to<br>1 | 1<br>to<br>2 | 2<br>to<br>3 | 3<br>to<br>4 | 4<br>to<br>5 | 5<br>to<br>10 | 10<br>to<br>15 | 15<br>to<br>20 | 20<br>to<br>35 | 35<br>to<br>45 | 45<br>to<br>65 | 65<br>and<br>over | Cases admitted<br>to Hospital. |                    |                    |              |      |    |
| Smallpox ..                                    | -                                 | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -             | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | -                              | -                  | -                  | -            | -    | -  |
| Scarlet fever ..                               | 11                                | -            | -            | -            | 1            | 1            | 7             | -              | 2              | -              | -              | -              | 8                 | 5                              | 2                  | 4                  | 4            | 7    | 4  |
| Diphtheria ..                                  | 3                                 | -            | 1            | -            | -            | -            | -             | -              | 2              | -              | -              | -              | 3                 | 1                              | 2                  | -                  | 1            | 2    | 2  |
| Cerebro-spinal fever ..                        | 1                                 | -            | -            | -            | 1            | -            | -             | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | 1                 | 1                              | -                  | -                  | 1            | 2    | 2  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..                           | 2                                 | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -             | -              | 2              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | -                              | -                  | -                  | -            | 2    | 1  |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..                       | 1                                 | 1            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -             | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | 1                              | -                  | -                  | -            | 1    | 3  |
| Pneumonia (Acute Primary and<br>Influenzal) .. | 7                                 | -            | 1            | -            | -            | -            | 1             | -              | -              | -              | -              | 2              | 2                 | 4                              | 2                  | 1                  | 4            | 32   | 3  |
| Measles ..                                     | 68                                | 1            | 4            | 10           | 8            | 4            | 34            | 3              | 1              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | 4                              | 47                 | 17                 | 36           | 2    | 2  |
| Whooping cough ..                              | 4                                 | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | -             | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | -                              | 2                  | 2                  | 2            | 1    | 4  |
| Erysipelas ..                                  | 1                                 | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 1             | -              | -              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | -                              | 1                  | -                  | -            | 1    | 4  |
| Food Poisoning ..                              | 4<br>(1)                          | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -             | -              | 2              | -              | -              | -              | -                 | 4                              | -                  | -                  | -            | -    | -  |

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.